

1

Library



WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1963

to which is appended the

REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30246246>

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. ANDREW A G. CARSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Local Health Office,
Church Street,
Wells-next-the-Sea.
Tel: Wells 262.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

A.E. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
Mill Road,
Wells-next-the-Sea.
Tel: Wells 439.

WELLS-NEXT-TO-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee, 1963

Chairman	-	Mr. J. Cadamy
Members	-	Mr. J.H. Acock
	-	Mr. L. Cox
	-	Mr. C.H. Platten
	-	Mr. D.H. Styman
	-	Mr. C.L. Terrington
	-	Mr. P.W. Webb
	-	Mr. J.A. Woollard
Ex-Officio	-	Dr. E.W. Hicks
	-	Mr. W.F. Thurgur

WELLS-NEXT-TO-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December, 1963

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Public Health of the District for the year 1963.

As in previous years, the report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector is included.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population was 2,450, which is the same as for 1962.

Fluoridation of water supplies was a much discussed and debated topic in 1963. In Section III (page 13) there is a summary from the Ministry of Health's report on the "conduct of fluoridation studies in the United Kingdom and the results achieved after five years." It is noteworthy that the Eire Supreme Court in Dublin, on Friday, 3rd July, 1964, declared the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act, 1960, of that Country, to be constitutional and the appeal of Mrs. Gladys Ryan, of Grace Park Road, Drumconra, Dublin, was dismissed with costs against her. In the course of giving judgment, the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Cearbhall O'Dalaigh, said that the question of dental caries had become a national problem in Eire. It could result not only in damage to the teeth themselves but through them might be injurious to general health. The State was organized for the common welfare of all its citizens and had a duty of protecting the citizens from dangers to health in a manner not incompatible or inconsistent with the rights of those citizens as human persons. The Court did not accept that the fluoridation of water, was, or could be described as the mass medication or mass administration of "drugs" through water. It was a misuse of words to refer to the process in such terms.

I have no doubt that, in time, fluoridation will be recognised and accepted in this Country.

The effect of smoking on health and, in particular, its relation to the rise in lung cancer was another topic in the news.

Comparisons of mortality from lung cancer in smokers and non-smokers show that smokers have a very much higher mortality than non-smokers, and in the case of heavy smokers (i.e. those who smoke in excess of 40 cigarettes a day) it is as much as seventy times as high.

There is also a clear association between cigarette smoking and coronary thrombosis, and in heavy smokers it is much higher than in non-smokers.

Lest one may say that he has been smoking for years and has run the risk anyway and that it is too late to stop smoking now, let me assure them that this is not so. There is no doubt that the risk of lung cancer is reduced whenever one gives up smoking.

Cigar and pipe smoking are less dangerous probably because they burn at a very much lower temperature than cigarettes. The temperature at the tip of a burning cigarette is around 900°C.

I should like to thank the Committee for their support and the Staffs of the Public Health Department and the Local Health Office for their help in the compilation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW A.G. CARSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N I

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area-- The Urban District covers 2,670 acres.

Population-- The Registrar General's estimated mid-year home population for 1963 was 2,450 which is the same as for last year. Estimated mid-year populations are shown by the following table:-

Year	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Estimated mid-year population	2450	2450	2470	2720	2730	2700	2600	2590	2590	2600

The total number of deaths was 45; the number of live births 40, showing a natural decrease of births over deaths of 5.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1963, was £63,089

Sum represented by a 1d. rate = £267.16.3d.

WEATHEROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

The data, acquired by courtesy of the R.A.F. West Raynham, is shown in the table below. The figures in brackets being the corresponding figures for 1962.

Month	Mean daily maximum Temp (°F)	Mean daily minimum Temp (°F)	Mean daily temperature (°F)	Total rain-fall Inches.	Mean relative humidity
Jan.	31.5 (43.2)	23.9 (34.2)	27.7 (38.7)	1.19 (2.02)	86.75 (89.5)
Feb.	33.4 (43.2)	24.4 (34.5)	28.9 (38.9)	.79 (1.44)	89.75 (83.75)
Mar.	48.0 (42.3)	35.4 (30.0)	41.7 (36.1)	3.35 (1.43)	89.25 (82.0)
April	53.8 (51.3)	39.6 (38.7)	46.7 (45.0)	2.05 (2.35)	87.0 (81.75)
May	57.5 (55.6)	41.9 (42.6)	49.7 (49.1)	2.34 (2.50)	82.0 (81.25)
June	65.5 (64.4)	49.5 (46.8)	57.5 (55.6)	1.51 (0.71)	83.25 (73.25)
July	66.9 (64.0)	50.0 (49.8)	58.5 (56.9)	1.93 (2.48)	82.25 (82.75)
Aug.	63.3 (65.3)	49.8 (49.8)	56.5 (57.5)	4.73 (3.0)	89.75 (81.75)
Sept.	61.9 (61.5)	48.0 (47.3)	54.9 (54.4)	2.03 (3.77)	88.75 (85.5)
Oct.	56.3 (56.8)	44.8 (44.6)	50.5 (50.7)	1.26 (1.16)	88.75 (89.5)
Nov.	50.9 (45.9)	40.6 (37.0)	45.7 (41.5)	2.78 (2.10)	91.0 (91.75)
Dec.	40.3 (39.9)	32.5 (29.5)	36.4 (34.7)	1.05 (2.63)	91.0 (88.5)

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered during the year was 40, of which one was illegitimate.

Details of births are given in the following table (figures given in brackets relate to 1962).

Live Births	Males		Females		Totals	
Legitimate	20	(18)	19	(12)	39	(30)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	1	(2)	1	(2)
Total	20	(18)	20	(14)	40	(32)

Live Birth Rate

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population was 16.3, compared with 13.06 for 1962; 14.2 for 1961 and 12.8 for 1960. Using a comparability factor of 1.14 the corrected live birth rate was 18.6 compared with the 1963 rate of 18.2 for England and Wales and 17.17 in the Administrative County of Norfolk.

Illegitimate Live Births

The illegitimate live birth rate is the percentage of total live births and for 1963 was 2.5% compared with 6.25% in 1962; 5.7% in 1961 and 2.8% in 1960.

Stillbirths

There were no stillbirths, and therefore the stillbirth rate was zero. The rate for England and Wales for 1963 was 17.3 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk it was 16.52.

Infant Deaths

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 2. Of these two, one died under one week of age.

The causes of these deaths were:-

- 11.2 days - Prematurity
- 11.2 months - Congenital Abnormality

Table showing deaths of infants under one year, four weeks and one week of age in 1963.

	Under One Year		Under Four Weeks		Under One Wk.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate	2	-	1	-	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate

This is the deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births and for 1963 was 50.0 compared with 93.7 for 1962 and 57.1 in 1961.

The rate in 1963 for England and Wales was 20.9 and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 16.33.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is the deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births and for 1963 was 51.3.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is the deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. As there were no illegitimate infant deaths, the rate was zero.

Neonatal Mortality Rate

This is the deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 total live births, and for 1963 was 25.0.

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate

This is the deaths of infants under one week of age per 1,000 total live births and for 1963 was 25.0.

Perinatal Mortality Rate

This is the number of stillbirths and deaths of infants under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths and for 1963 was 25.0.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in the District.

IN CONSIDERING ALL THE MORTALITY RATES TRUE COMPARISONS CANNOT BE MADE BECAUSE OF THE VERY SMALL NUMBERS INVOLVED. THUS ONE DEATH MORE OR LESS CAN PRODUCE INORDINATE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE MORTALITY RATES.

Deaths from all causes

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths and they are classified under the 36 headings on the abbreviated list of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Deaths, 1955. Where the headings are not listed there were no deaths due to these causes.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under Four Wks	4 wks & under 1 Yr.	Age in Years					
					25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.....	M F	2 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --	-- --	1 --
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.....	M F	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --	-- --
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	M F	1 2	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- 1	-- 1
16. Diabetes	M F	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.....	M F	4 5	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	3 2	1 3
18. Coronary Disease, Angina.....	M F	5 4	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	2 --	3 3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	M F	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --
20. Other Heart Disease.	M F	1 3	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- 2	1 1
21. Other Circulatory Disease.....	M F	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- 1
22. Influenza	M F	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --
23. Pneumonia	M F	1 2	-- --	-- --	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	M F	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis.....	M F	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	M	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases.	M F	2 4	1 --	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- 1	-- 3
35. Suicide	M F	-- 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	-- --
Total all Causes	M F	19 26	1 --	1 --	-- 1	-- --	2 --	1 2	6 10	8 13

The total number of deaths in the Wells Urban District in 1963 was 45.

Heart disease, with fourteen deaths, heads the list and caused 31.1% of all deaths. Coronary artery disease caused nine of these deaths giving a figure of 20% of all deaths. Vascular lesions of the nervous system, with nine deaths, also caused 20% of all deaths.

If all deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (which includes vascular lesions of the nervous system) are combined, a figure of 24 deaths is arrived at giving a figure of 53.3% of all deaths.

Cancer caused six deaths, three of which were from cancer of the lung and bronchus, i.e. cancer caused 13.3% of all deaths.

Death rate (crude) per 1,000 estimated population	--	18.4
Death rate (corrected using a comparability factor of 0.85) per 1,000 estimated population	--	15.6
Death rate (corrected) for the Administrative County of Norfolk per 1,000 estimated population	--	11.23
Death rate (corrected) for England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population	--	12.20

SECTION II

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Eighty-six cases of measles were notified during the year. No cases of other infectious diseases were notified.

Measles

The following table shows the incidence by sex and age groups:-

Age Groups	Males	Females
Under 1 Year	1	--
1 -- " "	3	1
2 -- Years	6	3
3 -- " "	5	1
4 -- " "	--	10
5 -- 9 " "	26	25
10 -- 14 " "	1	3
15 -- 24 " "	1	--
Total (All Ages)	43	43

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in 1963 in the District. Immunisation is offered by the Norfolk County Council.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis during 1963 in Area 8 (which comprises Falsingham and Docking Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts).

Age Groups	
Children born in 1963	47
Children born in 1962	273
Children born in 1961	67
Children and Young Persons born 1943-60	46
Young Persons born in 1933-42	11
Adults born 1932 or before	34
Total	478

Re-inforcing doses (All Groups)

Number of persons given third injections Salk	56
Number of persons given dose of Oral after	
(i) 2 Salk injections	81
(ii) 3 Salk injections or	
3 Oral doses or	
2 Salk injections)	
2 Oral doses)	477
Total	614

Smallpox

There were no cases of smallpox in the District during the year. Vaccine lymph is provided by the County Council.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations, by age groups, carried out in Area 8 and Wells Urban District in 1963.

Age at date of Vaccination	Area 8		Wells U.D.	
	Primary	Re-Vacc.	Primary	Re-Vacc.
0 - 3 months	14	-	-	-
3 - 6 "	21	-	1	-
6 - 9 "	15	-	-	-
9 - 12 "	47	-	2	-
1 year	88	-	8	-
2 - 4 years	26	9	2	1
5 - 14 "	13	26	-	-
15 or over	34	53	1	3
Total	258	88	14	4

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of cases on the Register at the end of 1963:-

At 31.12.63.	Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	3 (6)	3 (4)	6 (10)
Non-pulmonary	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Totals	3 (6)	4 (5)	7 (11)

(The figures in brackets show the corresponding numbers for 1962)

B.C.G. Vaccination

This is provided by the County Council and is offered to all children on attaining the age of thirteen years.

The following table shows the figures for Wells Secondary Modern School for the year 1963. (The figures in brackets are those for 1962).

No. due	Number accepted	Tested	Read	Positive	Negative & vaccinated	Tuberculin Index
99 (94)	93 (80)	92 (78)	91 (74)	7 (13)	84 (59)	7.6% (17.5)

The tuberculin index does not necessarily indicate tuberculous disease, as the resistance of the great majority of pupils is sufficient to overcome the invading tubercle bacilli; it does, however, indicate the degree of opportunity for invasion and is thus a useful index of infectious cases in a community.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

There were no cases of these in 1963.

Immunisation against these three diseases is given by the County Council and is usually commenced in infancy when the child is about three months old. It is mainly given as 'Triple Antigen' thus reducing the number of injections a child needs. The antigens given, combined in a single vaccine, produce a greater protection to each disease than they would if given separately.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus in Area 8, (Area 8 comprises Walsingham and Docking Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts) and the District in 1963.

BORN	1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958-54		1953-1949		1948 +		TOTAL	
	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.
TULPLE	Initial	142	6	230	9	56	1	9	4	4	8	2	2	2	453	16		
	Booster	-	-	5	-	39	17	37	15	15	4	20	3	-	1	-	117	39
DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS	Initial	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	1	-	38	3	3	-	47	3		
	Booster	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	5	-	169	11	9	-	209	11		
DIPHTHERIA	Initial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	4	1		
	Booster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	11	83	23	201	34		
TETANUS	Initial	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	116	5	77	5	396	14		
	Booster	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	7	-	26	9	26	2	109	11		

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS NOTIFICATIONS IN AREA 8 AND WELLS UBA DISTRICT IN 1963

REPORT ON FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Introduction

Fluoride occurs naturally in almost all the world's water supplies, varying from a trace to 14 parts per million or more. In Gt. Britain the highest natural concentration is about 6 parts per million (p.p.m.).

It has long been known that there is a correlation between the incidence of dental caries and the level of fluoride naturally occurring in water supplies, and, where high levels occur, this increased resistance can be accompanied by noticeable mottling of the dental enamel. However, where the level is below $1\frac{1}{2}$ p.p.m., no mottling occurs.

In the United States, it has been found that children born and brought up in an area with almost 1 p.p.m. of fluoride occurring naturally in the water, have up to 60% less dental decay than similar children in an area where there is only a trace in the water. In addition, about 30% of the former children between 12 and 14 years have completely sound teeth and it is believed that this benefit persists well into middle age. These findings have been supported by investigations in many other countries.

In 1945, the Americans and Canadians commenced studies to see whether similar results would follow where the level was raised to 1 p.p.m. by adding fluoride to the water.

In 1952 a United Kingdom mission was sent to North America to study these experiments and to advise whether fluoride should be added to the supplies in the United Kingdom.

This mission found that results being obtained were similar to those found where the level of fluoride occurred naturally in the water. There was nothing to suggest that a water to which fluoride had been added was different in its action or had different properties from one containing natural fluoride. There was no evidence to suggest any danger to health from the prolonged consumption of water containing fluoride in low concentration and they found that millions of people were living in ordinary good health on waters containing fluoride at levels of 1 p.p.m. or more. The mission recommended that further studies should be carried out in this Country by adding fluoride to some water supplies.

Preliminary Work

In 1954 a study was undertaken to correlate the incidence of caries and mottling of the teeth with different levels of fluoride.

Four areas in which fluoride was naturally present in water supplies were selected as follows:-

	Fluoride content (p.p.m)
West Mersea (Essex)	5.8 (highest in U.K.)
Burnham on Crouch (Essex)	3.5
Harwich "	2.0
Slough (Buckinghamshire)	0.9

Groups of children aged 12 to 14 years were studied in these areas. Their teeth were examined in detail and carious lesions, fillings and enamel defects were recorded. To estimate the incidence of caries the D.M.F. index was used, that is the average number of decayed (D), missing (M due to caries) and filled (F) teeth.

The results were that in Slough, with 0.9 p.p.m. fluoride, the incidence of caries was as low as 2.6 D.M.F. teeth per child, 30% of the children were entirely free of caries and mottling was negligible.

In Harwich, with 2.0 p.p.m. fluoride, incidence of caries was lower still - 1.5 D.M.F. teeth per child but mottling of teeth began to be noticeable in about 1 in 8 of the children examined.

Similar groups of children were examined in Saffron Walden and district (Essex), Stoneleigh and Malden West (Surrey) where there is only a trace of fluoride in the water. In these areas the incidence of caries was 6.6 to 6.1 D.M.F. teeth per child and only 4.8% were caries free.

From these and other studies, it was decided that the level of fluoride at which maximum reduction of caries occurred without mottling, was about 1 p.p.m.

Comparisons made in 1954 of the vital statistics in the United Kingdom showed that, between high and low fluoride areas, there were no differences in the mortality rates which could be interpreted as indicating any harmful effects on health.

In 1956, a conference of experts convened by the Medical Research Council agreed that "despite considerable interest and research there is no definite evidence that the continued consumption of fluorides in water at a level of about 1 p.p.m. in drinking water is in any way harmful to health and that if any untoward effect is revealed by future research it is most unlikely to be serious."

Study Areas

It was decided to fluoridate the water supply of at least three communities and to establish a corresponding "control" area as nearly as possible comparable to each of the areas whose water supply was to be treated.

The areas selected were:-

(i) Watford in Hertfordshire with Sutton as its control. Both have a population of some 70 - 80,000, are within a few miles of London and are largely residential.

(ii) Kilmarnock with Ayr as its control, both mainly industrial with populations of about 43,000.

(iii) Part of the County of Anglesey with the remainder as its control - largely agricultural.

Dental examinations were commenced in each of the study and control areas in 1955 and have been repeated annually since.

Fluoridating began in Anglesey on 17th November, 1955, in Kilmarnock on 19th April, 1956, and in Watford on 15th May, 1956, and experience shows that the cost of fluoridation works out at about 10d. per annum per head of the population supplied.

Dental Findings

To be fully effective, fluoride must be absorbed continuously during the whole period of tooth formation and calcification. The teeth must then erupt and be exposed to the risk of caries for a reasonable period before any reliable assessment can be made of the extent of caries prevention.

For the few years that fluoridation has been in operation in the study areas, therefore, its full effect can now be observed only in children up to the age of 5 years. Some improvement might now also be expected in children who have had fluoride from birth or early childhood but little in older children who have not had the benefit of fluoride in their earlier years while their teeth were being formed.

In the tables below are given the findings for children aged 3 - 7 years. The assessment for children of 3 and 4 years is made on the full deciduous dentition (i.e. 20 teeth) whilst for children aged 5 to 7 years, it has been made only on the deciduous canines and molars (i.e. on 12 teeth) due to the uncertainty arising from the natural shedding of incisor teeth. The baseline is the date of commencement of fluoridation.

Average Number of Carious Teeth per Child

Children aged	Study Areas			Control Areas		
	Average number of carious teeth per child (D.M.F)		Percentage reduction after adjustment for change in control areas	Average number of carious teeth per child (D.M.F)		Percentage Reduction
	Baseline	1961		Baseline	1961	
3 years	3.80	1.29	64	3.53	3.32	6
4 years	5.39	2.31	54	5.18	4.83	7
5 years	5.81	2.91	47	5.66	5.39	5
6 years	6.49	4.81	24	6.32	6.22	2
7 years	7.06	6.05	11	7.08	6.89	3

Percentage of Children free from Caries

Children aged	Study Areas			Control Areas		
	Percentage of children free from Caries		Percentage Increase after a justmant for change in control areas	Percentage of children free from Caries		Percentage Increase
	Baseline	1961		Baseline	1961	
3 years	32.5	60.5	79	37.9	37.3	4
4 years	22.2	42.0	44	20.6	26.9	31
5 years	8.1	30.9	165	8.4	12.1	44
6 years	6.2	14.0	56	5.8	8.4	45
7 years	4.0	7.7	53	4.8	5.4	25

Percentage of children with 10 or more carious teeth

Children aged	Study Areas			Control Areas		
	Percentage of children with 10 or more carious teeth (D.M.F)		Percentage reduction (after adj. for change in control areas).	Percentage of children with 10 or more carious teeth (D.M.F)		% Reduced
	Baseline	1961		Baseline	1961	
3 years	14.9	1.7	88	14.2	13.2	7
4 years	21.4	3.6	83	19.0	19.0	Nil
5 years	14.6	1.6	87	13.6	11.5	15
6 years	17.4	3.8	45	16.4	15.2	7
7 years	21.4	15.4	27	22.5	22.1	2

It will thus be seen that children aged 3 years in 1955/56 had, on an average, 3.8 carious teeth, the average in 1961 for this age group was 1.29. Similarly this reduction is maintained in the 4 and 5 year old age group. Among the 6 and 7 year old age group a reduction also took place but not to the same extent, as some of the teeth in these age groups were already calcified before fluoridation began.

Overall, the proportion of children in the study areas free from caries, has been increased by about three quarters.

Further, the proportion of children in study areas with 10 or more carious teeth has been reduced by as much as six sevenths in the case of children aged 3 to 4 years.

Thus fluoridation has brought a substantial improvement in the dental condition of the deciduous teeth of children in the study areas, and there is good reason to believe that the longer term effects of fluoridation will equally be beneficial. In America, it has been found that among children up to 10 years of age, who have had fluoride for the whole of their lives, caries was reduced by more than 50% and the incidence of caries in these age groups reached almost the same low level as in an area where fluoride occurs naturally at the same concentration.

Safety of Fluoridation

No harmful effects from the addition of one part per million of fluoride to drinking water has been demonstrated in any of the extensive medical evidence collected and viewed by a Research Committee.

The World Health Organisation's Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation has also reported (in 1958), "The most convincing evidence of the safety of water fluoridation comes from the numerous populations (3 millions in U.S.A. and 0.5 millions in U.K.) who have drunk naturally fluoridated water containing 1 p.p.m. or more during their lifetime. In these groups water drinking has been, of course, uncontrolled and there have been well and ill babies, as well as healthy young adults and frail elderly people. Medical Practitioners and Specialists in these areas have never detected or defined a systematic aberration in health of any kind related to fluoride consumed.

Conclusions

(1) Five years of fluoridation at a level of 1 p.p.m. in three study areas has brought about in each a substantial improvement in the teeth of young children.

(2) The results of fluoridation obtained so far are in line with American experience.

(3) No evidence of harm from fluoridation has been discerned despite continuous vigilance.

(4) The addition of fluoride to water supplies at a specified level has presented no technical difficulties.

S E C T I O N I V

R E P O R T

O F T H E

S U R V E I O R A N D P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

INSPECTIONS

The following inspections were carried out during the year.

Housing	..	..	..	..	..	32
Housing Repairs and Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	380
Slaughter Houses	..	..	..	..	..	283
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	17
Pest Acts	..	..	..	..	..	541
Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	147

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

The second stage of the clearance area has not yet been started but a number of the houses in Magness Ward were dealt with as individual unfit houses and the occupiers re-housed within the existing Council Housing accommodation.

The twenty-four Specialist Aged Persons Dwellings referred to in last year's report are nearing completion and the first block occupied by people in under-occupied existing Council Houses and as a result of re-shuffling the occupiers of existing accommodation, family 3-bedroom houses have been made available.

Individual Unfit Houses

During the year the Medical Officer of Health made Official Representations in respect of eight separate dwellings with the following results:-

Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	1
Closing Orders in lieu of demolition Orders	..	..	..	3
Undertakings accepted from owners	..	..	..	4

Improvements to Council Houses

During the year a further three Contracts, to complete the modernisation of all Pre-War Council Houses, were let. In the first Contract, thirty-two No. Houses are concerned and at the 31st December, four were completed. It is anticipated that by early in 1965 almost all Pre-War Council Houses will have been modernised and will contain the five basic amenities.

Improvements to Privately Owned Houses

Standard Grants and Discretionary Grants have been made as shown in the following tables but in no case has a grant been applied for in respect of any tenanted houses.

Standard Grants

Applications Received	..	..	..	11
Applications Approved	..	..	..	7
Value of Grants Approved	..	..	..	£775.0.0d.
Value of Grants Paid	..	..	..	£676.3.5d.

Discretionary Grants

Applications Received	..	..	..	1
Applications Approved	..	..	..	1
Value of Grants Approved	..	..	..	£400.0.0d.
Value of Grants Paid	..	..	..	£424.10.0d.

Private Enterprise Building

During the year proposals for six new dwellings were subritted and four were completed. This brings the private enterprise post-war building to forty-four dwellings. In the same period the Council has built two hundred and two dwellings.

WATER SUPPLY

A copy of the analyst's report of the Public Supply of Water is given below:

Table showing results of Analysis of Water Supply

Source of Sample and Date	Wells U.D.C. Public Supply Well, Black's Lane, tap in softening rooms. 28th October, 1963.
Appearance	Clear
Nature of Deposit	Nil
Colour	Nil
Reaction	Faintly Alkaline
Taste	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.07
Nitrate Nitrogen	16.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	52
Oxygen Absorbed	--

Opinion: The organic quality of this water is good and its bacteriological condition is excellent. There is no evidence of pollution.

During the year a Contract was let to improve the distribution and take greater advantage of the bulk supply of water available from Walsingham R.D.C. An additional outflow from the Council's water storage tank is included in the Contract. Work commenced on the 1st August and it is anticipated that it will be completed before the next Summer Season when the demand reaches its peak. The work includes for the provision of new mains in a number of areas where supplies are insufficient.

New Connections to mains in Year	.. .. .	34
Number of domestic premises drawing water from mains		948
Number of domestic premises not drawing from mains		3
Number of domestic premises drawing from stand taps		25

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewage disposal works functioned satisfactorily during the year except for sludge drying.

Wet sludge is removed from the sewage works by tanker and deposited in a disused lime pit adjoining the refuse tip. Subsidence of the filter beds at the sewage works continues but to date has caused no serious difficulty.

Night Soil Collection

Of the thirty-one houses served by bucket lavatories at the end of 1962, five were converted during the year to water closets, on which the Council paid grants totalling £156.11.3d.

The Council has now served Statutory Notices, requiring that the bulk of the remaining earth closets be converted to water closets.

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supplied in this District is processed outside the District, and is sold by three dairymen and from a number of shops in the town.

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

The following premises are registered for the purpose indicated:-

Storage and sale of ice cream	..	..	..	19
Fish & Chip Shops	..	..	..	3
Sausages and Potted Meats	..	..	..	4
Boiling of Shellfish	..	..	..	4

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent Control is carried out by the Sewage Works Attendant and visits and treatments are summarised in the following table:-

Local Authority premises		Dwellings	Others
Inspections	11	515	12
Treatments	21	270	4

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected in a 7 c.yd. shuttered body vehicle and it is deposited in an old lime pit. The pit is inadequately fenced and some nuisance is caused by the promiscuous dumping of refuse by trespassers. In spite of the abnormal increase in rodent population as a result of the winter, no large infestation was allowed to develop at the Council's refuse tip.

CARAVAN SITE

The Council operates a holiday caravan site on the reclaimed land on the north side of the town. During the year pail closets were converted to water closets and sewage storage tanks were installed. The sewage storage tanks were emptied by the Council's cesspool emptier, and while there is no serious difficulty with the site, it is still desirable that the sewage be automatically pumped to the Council's sewage works. Due to the almost completely level site, and the fact that it is below sea level, it is anticipated that the laying of the drainage, and the installation of the pumping equipment, will be most difficult and costly and will need a supply of electricity to be made available.

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

The following ships entered the port during the year:--

Ships from	Arrivals at Wells		Departures Ex Wells	
	Full	Empty	Full	Empty
Ex - Foreign Ports.	20	1	14	7
Ex -- Home Ports	1	19	20	--

The forty-one ships entering the port had a net register of 4,932 tons.

It is interesting to note that forty-one ships entered the port in 1963 compared with thirty-one in 1962 and twenty in 1961.

Twenty-one left for foreign ports in 1963 compared with twenty-one in 1962 and eighteen in 1961.

There were no serious sanitary defects noted in these ships.

A number of small fishing craft operate from this port.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The following is a summary of the animals slaughtered and inspected during the year. Only one slaughter house operates in this District. This is well maintained and is continually being improved.

Animals Slaughtered.

	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Slaughtered	197	--	340	279	816
Inspected	197	--	340	279	816

Unsound Meat Seized or Surrendered.

All diseases except for Tuberculosis.

	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases Seized	--	--	--	--
Carcases from which some part was condemned	9	--	2	7
Percentages	4.56	--	.588	2.5

Tuberculosis Only

	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases condemned	--	--	--	--
Carcases of which part was condemned	--	--	--	--
Percentages	--	--	--	--

Cysticercus Bovis

	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcasses condemned	--	--	--	--
Carcasses of which part was condemned	1	--	--	--
Percentage	.508	--	--	--

Unsound Food

The following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Weight in lbs.	Food	Cause of unfitness
3 lbs	Bullocks Heart	Cysticercus Bovis
4 lbs	Imported canned Pork	Loss of Vacuum
20 lbs	Bullocks Liver	Abscesses
20 lbs	Sundry offals	Abscesses

FACTORIES ACT

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Annual report for 1963 under Section 123(3) of the
Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	7	--	--
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	--	--	--	--
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	19	4	--	--
TOTAL	39	11	--	--

2. Cases in which defects were found :-

1 -- Want of Cleanliness.

